## REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **May 20, 2004**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-21, and 23-27. Claims 1-2, 7-11, 16-20, and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy et al. (USPN 5,675,818, hereinafter "Kennedy") in view of Edberg et al. (USPN 5,873,111, hereinafter "Edberg"). Claims 5-6, 14-15, and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy, in view of Edberg, in further view of Davis et al. (*Unicode technical Standard #10, Unicode Collation Algorithm*, hereinafter "Davis").

### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 10, and 19 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kennedy in view of Edberg. Applicant respectfully points out that Kennedy teaches **using auxiliary tables** to determine expansion of certain characters (see Kennedy, col. 9, line 14 to col. 10, line 10).

In contrast, the present invention is directed to **extending the primary weight value field** to include all bits within the collation element (including the bits that were formerly used for secondary weight values specifying accents and tertiary weight values specifying case information) so that the primary weight value field can support more characters (see page 7, lines 14-22 of the instant application). Extending the primary weight value field is beneficial because it facilitates encoding larger character sets, for example Chinese characters, within the collation element.

The key observation here is that these larger character sets, such as the Chinese characters, typically do not require accents or case information. Neither Kennedy nor Edberg have made this observation and consequently neither Kennedy nor Edberg suggest using the secondary and tertiary weight fields to extend the primary weight field. There is nothing within Kennedy or Edberg,

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either separately or in concert, which suggests extending the primary weight value field to include all bits within the collation element.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 to clarify that the present invention extends the primary weight value field to include all bits within the collation element. These amendments find support on page 7, lines 14-22 of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 10, and 19 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-3 and 5-9, which depend upon claim 1, claims 11-12 and 14-18, which depend upon claim 10, and claims 20-21 and 23-27, which depend upon claim 19, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

## CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By                                             

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Date: June 4, 2004

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